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Security Council

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Letter dated 18 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On orders from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, in violation of the provisions of Security Council resolution 2076 (2012), which demands the immediate withdrawal of the 23 March Movement (M23) from Goma, various independent sources have confirmed that this rebel movement's troops are still camped at the gates of the city of Goma, causing widespread insecurity in the city and the surrounding area.

Despite the ongoing negotiations in Kampala, the same sources report that M23 troops are posted in the Munigi hills, 6 kilometres from Goma, near a United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) base.

Furthermore, the M23 recently received support from Rwandan battalions, who entered Congolese territory on 8 and 12 December 2012 in order to add to their numbers in the event that the peace talks in Kampala are unsuccessful.

This situation demonstrates, if further proof was needed, the urgent need for rapid change in the mandate of MONUSCO so that it can respond effectively to the worsening situation on the ground.

For this reason, the Government, while continuing its collaboration with MONUSCO, is calling for the latter's mandate to be restructured in order to bring it into line with conditions on the ground.

Such a restructuring would be consistent with the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 2076 (2012), particularly paragraphs 5, 6 and 9 thereof, and would seek, inter alia:

(a) To strengthen the mandate of MONUSCO in order to make it more effective;

(b) To increase the number of MONUSCO troops in North and South Kivu in order to respond to the operational needs on the ground;

(c) Either to provide MONUSCO with additional troops, as needed, up to the number authorized by the Security Council, or to restructure it in order to strengthen its capacity;

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(d) To provide enhanced logistical support in the form of appropriate equipment (such as combat helicopters, night-vision equipment and surveillance drones), bearing in mind the conditions under which MONUSCO operates.

My Government invites the Security Council to take action on this letter and to have it circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Ignace **Gata Mavita**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative